

DESERT AIR MONITOR



A PUBLICATION OF THE MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NOMINATIONS FOR *EXEMPLAR* AWARDS NOW OPEN

Help us recognize those who have made great strides towards cleaner air!

The MDAQMD is now accepting nominations for the 2008-2009 *Exemplar* Awards, the District's 13th annual air quality achievement awards.

According to Webster's Dictionary, the word "Exemplar" may be used to describe that which serves as a model, ideal or example worthy of imitation by others. Hence, the *Exemplar* Awards recognize High Desert entities that demonstrate an exceptional commitment to clean air through the development of voluntary activities/projects that reduce or prevent air pollution within the MDAQMD's jurisdiction, which encompasses San Bernardino County's High Desert and Riverside County's Palo Verde Valley. The *Exemplar* Awards are presented annually by the District in association with National Pollution Prevention Week which this year, runs September 21st through September 27th, 2009.

Last fall, the City of Barstow received the *Exemplar* Award for its success in developing natural gas

infrastructure and promoting the use of natural gas vehicles in the Mojave Desert. In 2005, the City of Barstow constructed the area's first public-access liquefied natural gas/compressed natural gas fueling station. Since the facility's opening, private vehicles in the city and throughout the region have become regular users of the station, while the City has replaced 14 of its own transit vehicles to CNG, with even more replacements scheduled.

For complete eligibility requirements or to obtain an *Exemplar* nomination packet, visit the District's website at www.mdaqmd.ca.gov. All entries must be postmarked or date-stamped by MDAQMD staff no later than Thursday, August 20, 2009 by 5:00 P.M.

For more information, contact Violette Roberts, Community Relations & Education Manager, at (760) 245-1661, ext. 6104.

MDAQMD LAUNCHES AIR QUALITY E-MAIL ALERT SYSTEM

ENVIROFLASH DELIVERS INFORMATION TO USERS' INBOXES

Just in time for ozone season, the MDAQMD has launched **EnviroFlash**, an e-mail alert system that delivers air quality forecasts and health advisories straight into subscribers' inboxes.

By visiting the District's website at www.mdaqmd.ca.gov and clicking on the "EnviroFlash" link, residents can sign up to receive e-mail notifications with Local Air Quality Index (AQI) forecasts for any of six cities where the MDAQMD maintains air monitoring stations. Subscribers can choose to receive daily air quality information for Victorville, Hesperia, Phelan, Barstow, 29 Palms or Trona – or receive alerts only when air quality levels become unhealthy.

For the High Desert, the months between May and October are considered the region's "ozone season," since levels of ozone – the main component of smog – become most elevated during these hot summer months, when smog from the Los Angeles basin is windblown into the region.



EnviroFlash also provides special alerts during exceptional air quality events, such as wildfires and high wind episodes. Members of susceptible groups – such as older adults, people with respiratory or heart diseases, people who are active outdoors and children – will find the automated alerts particularly helpful in planning/modifying their outdoor activities during episodes of elevated ozone or particulate matter.

Signing up for EnviroFlash is free and easy, and only requires an e-mail address and a zip code. EnviroFlash information will not be shared with other organizations, and subscribers can change their e-mail preferences at any time. For more information or to sign up, visit www.mdaqmd.ca.gov today!

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